

Point Three



The Torch magazine
June 1980 10p



**THE DANCE GOES ON
'THEM AND US'**

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Point Three

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911).

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

Point Three is available from the Toc H Publications Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT. (Telephone: 0296 623911).

Single copies 10p. Annual subscription: £1.20 including postage.

The cover picture shows tap dancing 'majorettes' Clair and Denise performing with the 'Toc H Lamplighters' in their recent Old Time Music Hall in Addington (Surrey) Community Centre.

Photo: The Advertiser, S Croydon



Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House – the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points – to think fairly.

Guest Editorial

POST-PAPAL DEPRESSION

Only months after the Pope's visit to Ireland on 29 September last year, *The Irish Times* carried an article on 'post-papal depression'. Small wonder that there was a sense of anti-climax after the euphoria of the Holy Father's visit, for he had three quarters of the population on the move, eager to catch a glimpse of him. 'It was like Christmas', someone said; certainly the greatest thing to hit Ireland since the founding of the State or beyond.

And what did the visit achieve, all three packed days of it? The violence in the North continues apace, the Pope's beseeching for peace apparently unheeded.

Peace was probably too much to hope for. The more lasting effects are doubtless less noticeable: a rekindling of faith, renewed confidence, and for any young person lucky enough to be present at the Youth Mass in Galway, an inspiration none could forget. 'Young People of Ireland, I love you!'

The Pope came, he said, on a 'mission of peace and reconciliation'. 'May no Irish Protestant think that the Pope is an enemy . . . but a brother in Christ.' He certainly impressed leaders of other churches with his personal warmth, but perhaps more importantly, his friendliness to them has given the heart and authority to Roman Catholic clergy to be more outgoing in their relations with other churches.

I recently attended a service of thanksgiving for the visit of John Paul II, in the Roman Catholic church here in Crosshaven. I was amazed to learn that it was the first time that Anglicans had been invited to worship in the Roman Catholic church. (Incidentally, the reverse had taken place.) As far as I can gather, this situation is not uncommon, although Cork is hardly noted for its advances in church unity.

It would be unfair, however, to leave the picture there. Ecumenical developments have been taking place in Ireland – North and South – for years, although at a painfully slow pace. For example, representatives from all the main churches have been meeting at Ballymascanlon over the past ten years. The most recent meeting (on 6 March) reported a new positive atmosphere and a determination to put its many worthy recommendations actually into practice. The Rt Rev Samuel Poyntz, recently appointed Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross and a convinced ecumenist, says that there are at least 80 groups or happenings of an ecumenical nature functioning in the Republic. These include such things as the Glencree Reconciliation Centre in Wicklow, the unique School of Ecumenics in Dublin, ventures in co-operation like the Association of Hospital Chaplains or the sharing of chapels in Trinity College and in University College, Dublin. Among Protestant denominations there is an encouraging sharing of plant and/or manpower. 'Buildings tend to perpetuate disunity', says the Bishop of Cork. 'If you are walking up the same path to the same church door you can hope eventually for a convergence towards Christ.'

Progress towards unity is constrained by the divisions in the structure of society, by the segregated educational system, by the cultural differences between many Protestants and Roman Catholics. Of course, for most Roman Catholics in Eire, ecumenism is not an urgent question. If you're a Roman Catholic in Kanturk, who are you going to be ecumenical with? Only a minority of Roman Catholics would be touched by the hurtful problems of a 'mixed marriage' (as it is known), with its divisive issues over the upbringing of the children. (The Roman church insists that the Roman Catholic partner should do his best to ensure that the children are brought up in his church, although 'there is', says the Bishop of Cork, 'a growing Roman Catholic understanding among ordinary people that a decision should be made within the unity of the marriage. People are beginning to recognise that the Christian conscience of both partners should be respected'.)

Yet for all this, things have moved. As the Bishop said, when he was a child Protestants and Roman Catholics had to be let out of school at different times. But have they moved fast enough? 'Disunity is so wasteful', says the Bishop. 'The true concept of ecumenism (*oikoumene* = the whole inhabited world) must embrace mission: caring for the Third World, social penetration. There are so many things we can do together.'

It remains only to be convinced of the need. It has always been true – witness the Christian churches in North and South India – that it is out of a sense of weakness that the greatest progress towards unity has been made.

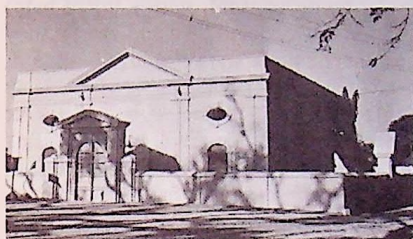
Sue McWilliam

The Wider Family

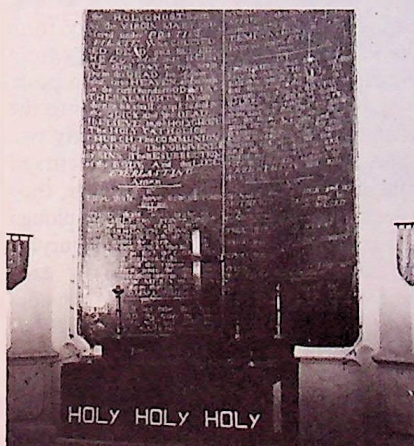
India

We have recently been told of two Church appeals for South India and asked to publicise them. Each has its own historic and Toc H interest.

1. Toc H, Thanjavur tells us that in April this year, Christ Church, Fort, in their district, celebrated its bicentenary. Toc H has been closely associated with this church for the past 27 years, having taken it over when there were threats to turn it into a godown. After a strange history of Christian presence amid E India Company wars, the foundation stone of the present church was laid on 10 March 1779 and the church finally dedicated on 16 April 1780. From April this year, the church is part of a new pastorate and urgently needs funds for its development. Any donations or correspondence should be addressed to: Mr S Philip, MA, BT, Secretary, St Peter's High Secondary School, Thanjavur, S India.



The front view of Christ Church



The altar of Christ Church.



2. St Mary's Church, Fort St George, Madras.

We have just received a copy of an appeal from the Bishop of Madras in the tercentenary year of this remarkable church.

St Mary's is the oldest Protestant church east of Suez. It was built by the East India Company and consecrated on 28 October 1680. I am told that it was constructed in the form of a half circle, and heavily reinforced, so that it could be used as a shelter in the event of a French bombardment from the sea. Governor Elihu Yale, later founder of Yale University, was married in St Mary's and presented the church with exquisite Communion plate. The church is a historical monument under the Indian Government's Archaeological Department besides being a most attractive building.

From 1858, when the Government of India was assumed by the British Crown, St Mary's served as the garrison church for successive British regiments. Toc H Madras used the Church for special services and the parish room for meetings on and off from 1925 and regularly during the last war. St Mary's now houses the altar and other furnishings from the Madras Toc H Branch House which closed during the last war.

Bishop Sundar Clarke says that the appeal fund (target Rs5 Lakhs, or approximately £28,000) will be devoted to three schemes:

- (1) A scholarship fund for St George's High School (formerly the Civil Orphan Asylum).
- (2) A Reading Room and Counselling Centre in Fort St George.
- (3) Halls for public worship and education in villages in the Madras area.

The Treasurer for the St Mary's Church Tercentenary Appeal is: Mrs Ruth Morris, 35 Sheppard Way, Minchinhampton, Glos GL6 9BZ

The death bed scene of Revd Fr C F Schwartz, the Church's founder and first pastor. This marble relief by Flaxman is set in the building's west wall.

Gibraltar

Karin King, Secretary to Keith Rea in BAOR, has sent us the following note springing from her recent visit to Gibraltar.



At one end of Gibraltar's 'Main Street', tucked away in a corner, is a narrow entrance with a big 'Toc H Welcome' sign. Jock Brown, one time Toc H Warden, runs a hostel where every night he puts up between seven and ten people, mostly young hikers, in a variety of accommodation from caravans to low brick buildings, some of which were old gunpowder rooms. Jock himself lives in one of these 'powder rooms'. Jock is now 88 years old and to help run the hostel he is assisted by two ladies. One is a Spanish lady who has worked for Jock since he first went to Gibraltar: her work now is voluntary and she receives no salary.

While on a week's holiday to Gibraltar I visited Jock and, although he did not know me at all, he made me very welcome. We had tea and biscuits and he proudly showed me photographs and mementos from his long life. He is in very good spirits and feels that in a humble way he is building a better world.

Karin King



Photos: Karin King

Where it all started

In April this year we published 'Toc H over the Water' — an account of one particular group's visit to the Old House and the Poperinge area. But people make this trip — members and others — for all sorts of reasons, at all sorts of times of year and travel in all sorts of party groups. Here we give two further examples to illustrate the variety of approach to and the many kinds of enjoyment to be gained from a journey to Poperinge. — Editor

Poperinge 1979

by Bert Hill

We left London on a beautiful day, enjoyed a perfect crossing over to Ostend, and arrived at Poperinge at teatime to a great welcome from John Forbes. So began a wonderful stay at Talbot House. The party was led by Alan Daniels and included Mary Olga Naylor, Fred Lancaster, Bill Bennett, Gordon Rutter, Ron Gemmil and myself Bert Hill from our Region, Irene from Leeds and Bill from Hertford. We proved to be a happy crowd, very quickly getting to know each other. The atmosphere of the Old House is something that must be experienced — one can clearly visualise the past. As we sit or kneel in silent prayer in the Upper Room we know that God is present in and around us: we are truly on holy ground. As Fred remarks, being in the Upper Room puts a new awareness of the wider relationships of Toc H.

On the lighter side we had much fun and laughter together on our tour around the area. Bill reminds us of our visit to Messen, treated as VIPs by the Town Clerk, a jovial fellow who insisted on a visit to the cafe across the square for drinks and stood in the square to wave us off as we left. (How many of our town clerks could or would do the same?) We visited Kemmel Hill with its French Memorial, The Pool of Peace (an old first world war crater now a pool) with its water lilies, looked after by Toc H Belgium. We enjoyed a visit to the seaside, a lovely spot with miles of clean sand. We met the 'Kitcheners', the young folk of Poperinge who meet in the kitchen of the Old House. What a joy to hear what they do in caring for the elderly, the sick and those in hospitals, and their future plans. We were heartened to see their dedication to Toc H work. We also enjoyed excellent meals at the De Ranke Restaurant eaten leisurely as is the continental custom.

Sunday began with worship at the Evangelical Church. Though the service was Flemish, we benefited from it very much by the sincerity of those taking part. Some of the tunes we knew and

could fit in the words quite easily. The welcome we received was very warm indeed. Sunday lunch was taken at a country inn, after which we visited the Canadian and British war cemeteries around Ypres. Here we realise the great price paid for a few years of peace in the world. Then the emotion of the Last Post at the Menin Gate (a memorial to the thousands who have no known grave). The evening prayers in the Upper Room were led by Alan and John. I had the privilege of taking Light, a very moving experience...

Monday came all too quickly and the return journey to London was again a perfect one. I leave it to Olga to sum up our visit to the Old House. It was a very happy holiday, when we experienced the joy of true Toc H fellowship. We laughed together a great deal and some of us unashamedly shed a few tears (at the Menin Gate and in the Upper Room). I feel sure we all benefited from our brief holiday, not only physically but spiritually too.

Our sincere thanks to Alan for all the hard work put into planning the trip (which seemed to go without a hitch) and for acting as chauffeur: and our thanks to Mary for organising the 'eats' etc. Our thanks also to John Forbes at the Old House for all his help.

We look forward to our next visit to Poperinge — 1980 perhaps?

Almost a year earlier, a very different party had set out for Belgium...

Happy New Year-Belgian Style

by Graham Irwin

Little did they realise what those welly boots left in the drive of Croydon Centre would mean to them by the end of their trip! Thus begins the saga of nine stalwart Toc H members, led by the equally stalwart (well, almost) Bob Mills as they set out in the SE Region's minibus to spend New Year in Poperinge. The

journey to Dover was uneventful, but once on the boat our travellers (driver excluded, of course!) took the first step of the day to decrease the blood level in their alcohol streams.

Seven hours after leaving Croydon, the nine intrepids were installing themselves in the youth hostel in Poperinge to start four days of celebrations. The snow did little to dampen (or chill) their enthusiasm, nor did washing in ice cold water in the mornings. On New Year's Eve our (merry!) band was invited to a party held by the local Liberal Party. Needless to say, a grand time was had by all and when the celebrations died down at about 5 am, Helen — our tame 'Maggie' — had to be extricated from a cluster of adoring admirers.

But all good things must come to an end and all too soon, it seemed, it was time to leave. By now all the loos were frozen up just to add to the fun! With a bit of help (well, to be truthful, with a lot of help) from M Bernard and his Land Rover, they got the minibus started and, all aboard, roared off to Boulogne — the engine firing on all three cylinders. Our venerable leader was congratulating himself that no-one had ended up in hospital this year and no disasters had befallen the company when, having passed through Calais, the minibus stuck in the snow. PK donned his wellies, having removed a bottle of whisky from the left boot and a bottle of brandy from the right, and everyone got out to push. All to no avail. They all got back into the minibus and started to think. Nearly two hours later, having discussed the merits of cold ravioli and brandy for supper, they were still thinking! After the snow plough had passed for the fourth time, burying the minibus deeper in the snow each time, a little van full of men with spades came by and stopped. Seeing the plight of our pioneers, they dug out the minibus while five noble martyrs pushed. As the minibus began to move, realising that the driver would be unable to stop, one rather bright member of the pushing team jumped on the back as the others ran behind. (Yes, you're right, it was your modest narrator). Back on the road again, our adventurers had little chance of making their ferry — at least it seemed so. However they arrived in Boulogne with a minute to spare only to find that the ferry was delayed half an hour by bad weather! A meal on the boat and a drink had our company replete, and so ends our tale — the end of a most enjoyable holiday.

Poperinge Trip

There are a few unexpected vacancies on a minibus tour to Poperinge. Revd Colin Rudd is leading the party and the main pick-up point is London (Crutched Friars): it may be possible to pick up passengers at other points between there and the coast. Dates 11-18 June. All-in cost £80. All enquiries, please to: Revd Colin Rudd, 15 Moorend Road, Yardley Gobion, Towcaster, Northants NN12 7UF. Tel: 0908 (Yardley Gobion) 542655.



Photo: Luton News

'I was dying to help Toc H in an emergency', said Luton Toc H Marsh Farm Group's Vera Flanagan. She gained her ambition by 'dying' 14 times during the making of the new Flashing Light Film ('Emergency'). Loughton (Essex) Branch commissioned this new film and BBC TV filmed Toc H making it.

'Emergency' will be completed by the end of the summer and all applications for loans of the film should be made to Loughton Branch. 'Emergency', which shows just how Flashing Light schemes work, is a Super 8 mm sound film, lasting 16 minutes.

Welcome

The following Branches elected new members during March and April:

- 7 - Selkirk (m)
- 4 - Dundee (j) Group, Rushden Pytchley (w)
- 3 - Alloa (j), Fareham (j), Redcar (j) Group, Rushden (w), Woolston (Warrington) Youth Action (j) Group
- 2 - Barrow-on-Humber (j), Leamington Spa (w), Manchester District, Stony Stratford & Wolverton (w), Uckfield (m), Welshpool (m) Wem (j)
- 1 - Anstey (m), Bideford (j), Bideford (w), Charmouth (j), Crayford (j), Denbigh (j), Dunton Green (m), East Lancs and Pendle District, Gillingham (m), Goring-on-Sea (m), Holland-on-Sea (w), Leicester United (j), Llanelli (j), Middlesbrough (m), Newport - Gwent (w), North Bucks District, Orpington (m), Ryde (j), Stockton (j) Group, Sudbury (w) Sutton-on-Sea (m), Totton (j) Group, Trimley (w), Tubby's Poperinge (j) Group, Weston-Super-Mare (j), Whitstable (w), Worksop (j), Wroughton (w)

A warm welcome to 72 new members

'Clayton of Toc H'

This is the title of the authorised biography of Tubby, written by Sir Tresham Lever and first published by John Murray in 1971.

When preparing this book, Sir Tresham was given access to all Tubby's surviving private papers and to the relevant papers of HM The Queen Mother and the late HRH The Duke of Windsor. The book is cloth bound and illustrated.

'Clayton of Toc H' is now out of print and will not be re-issued. We have acquired the small stock remaining and when this is exhausted, there will be no more. We are able to offer these for sale at the old published price.

If you want a copy, please order now. Send your order to: Toc H Publications Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

PLEASE SEND REMITTANCE WITH ORDER. (The cost is £3.50 a copy plus 50p for postage and packing.)

From the Director

by Ken Prideaux-Brune



The production schedule for *Point Three* means that I am writing these words over Easter and you will probably be reading them shortly after our National Festival. I am not suggesting that there is any connection between the two events beyond this fortuitous conjunction of dates but nonetheless as we look forward from our Festival the Easter hope has something important to say to us.

We shall never, I suppose, fully understand the mystery of the Resurrection. We shall never know exactly what happened. One thing emerges very clearly, however, from the Gospel narratives. On Good Friday the disciples were a group of completely disillusioned men. All their hopes and dreams had been shattered. Everything to which they had offered allegiance had been destroyed. And then on Easter Day something happened which transformed them. Something happened which gave them the confidence to go out and preach hope to the world.

Many today are disillusioned and apathetic, bewildered by changes which seem always to be for the worse, unable to see any realistic signs of hope for the future. And we are inevitably part of that climate of despair. To us, too, the past often seems to possess a rosy glow much more exciting than the drab present. But we, like the disciples, can be transformed by Easter.

The Easter hope is not a blind and facile optimism. The disciples did not shut their eyes to the pain and disillusion of Good Friday. But they did become more aware of the signs of hope, however small and tentative they might be, in the world around them. And they resisted the temptation to succumb to nostalgia for those three exciting years which they had spent with Jesus. They lived in the future not in the past.

There are for us, if we have eyes



The picture shows Kathleen Davies and Olive and Connie Maling – founder members of Clacton-on-Sea Women's Branch. The Branch recently celebrated its 50th birthday with a party at which they were joined by members from neighbouring Branches. Kathleen cut the magnificent birthday cake which was inscribed '50 years of Light'.



Photo: David Hughes

Mr and Mrs Goff Taylor. The picture was taken at a dinner given in Newport (Gwent) to celebrate Goff's 50 years of service with Toc H. He is a founder member of Newport Branch and was Branch Treasurer for many years.



Photo: Eastbourne Herald

Members of Hampden Park (E Sussex) Women's Branch savouring the Branch's 26th anniversary coffee evening. In the picture are: Penny Batho (Branch

treasurer), Anne Savage (Branch chairman) and founder member Dorothy Knight.

to see, signs of hope, small, perhaps, but real. To see the development of an unlikely friendship, making nonsense of the barriers with which society tries to keep us in compartments, is a Resurrection experience. To watch someone come alive in a quite new way, by discovering talents he never knew he possessed, is a Resurrection experience. To listen to the excitement of a group of people who have just discovered Toc H for the first time is a Resurrection experience. I hope that the Festival, too, will have proved to be for each of us a Resurrection experience.

A couple of months ago I visited a long standing Toc H member who was frail and dying. Life for him was bounded by the four walls of his room. One might have expected my visit to have been an occasion for him to reminisce

nostalgically about his past Toc H experience. But no. He was full of questions about Toc H in the present and the future and, in particular, he wanted to know all about Cuddesdon House and our hopes for it. Here was a man who even as he neared death lived in the future and not in the past.

With St Francis we pray: 'where there is despair, let us bring hope'. As we train ourselves to see the signs of hope which lie around us, as we train ourselves to live in the future rather than remaining in a past from which we have filtered all the pain and difficulty, we shall be able to give reality to that prayer. We shall move forward from our Festival with an echo, however faint, of the confidence with which the disciples moved forward from that first Easter Day.

We will Remember...

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In September

Kenneth G Kemp (Tunbridge Wells District)

In December

Arthur C Brocklehurst (Paignton)

In January

Reginald E Huggett (Horton Kirby)
Eifion W Jones (Corwen)
E G Smith (Saltford)

In February

Katherine M Brown (Nairn)
Thomas Edwards, MBE, (Buckley)

In March

Lilian Ambler (Keighley)
Rev Canon D E Benbow (Hythe)
Norah M Clarke (Mansfield Woodhouse)
Frances E Collier (formerly Durrington)
Rev Stanley F Cooper (Padre of Carisbrooke (w))
Lily E R Howell (South West Counties)
Arthur G Jennings (Durdham Down)
Marjorie E J Jepson (Watford)
Ethel M Knight (Hunstanton)
Peggy MacKenzie (Belfairs)
Frank Sellars (Coningsby)
L I 'Peggy' Sleight (Barrow-on-Humber)
Tom W Smith (Brandon)
H W 'Fred' Taylor (Chalfonts)
Peter Thompson (Abingdon)
Col G A Wharton, CBE, (Erewash and Trent Valley District)
R C 'Bob' Wiseman (Cheltenham)

In April

J 'Skipper' Emmerson, DCM, (Coalville)
Harry H Sprosen (St Thomas, Exeter)
Stanley Sutcliffe (Lindley)

Miss D Everdale Hawks (Hawk Eye) died last October. She joined the Movement in the early days of LWH in Bournemouth and held a series of Branch offices. In recent years, she became progressively paralysed and was finally bedridden but 'she bore her disability with cheerfulness and fortitude and always retained her interest in Toc H'.

Deal and Walmer (Kent) Joint Branch lost a much loved founder member when George John Bailey died in January, aged 74. He had served as Chairman and as Pilot to both Branch and District. He was a staunch church warden, vice-chairman of Deal's Friends of the Blind and regularly helped at Deal Hospital and Eastry Hospital for the mentally handicapped. His place in Deal will be hard to fill.

A great Christian gentleman, Jabez Emmerson - 'Skipper' to his Toc H friends - died on 3 April. He was a man who inspired love and respect and who excelled in all that he did.

Photo: John F Perkins



'Skipper' entered the first World War as a young mining student. In a cool, brave exploit he tunnelled under the enemy position and turned the tables by locating an enemy land mine, extracting the explosive and using it for his own land mine: for this he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

On his return to civil life, he completed his mining qualifications and became Manager of Snibston Colliery. Its early history under George and Robert Stephenson meant that there were many valuable documents associated with them which he was able to have transferred to the County Record Office. His technical skill was of a high standard but, as a Group Manager ultimately responsible for four mines, the most notable feature of his work was the bond of friendship and respect in which his men held him . . .

He started the Coalville Branch of Toc H, and was a valued friend of Revd P B Clayton CH, MC, one of the great men of our age. 'Skipper' had pleasant comradeship with many notable men, including 'Tubby' Clayton's cousin, Dick Sheppard. Tubby once said to him, ' "Skipper", I want you to meet Bill': Bill was William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, and a President of Toc H. 'Skipper' himself was a Vice-President for many years, and it was an indication of the high regard and respect in which he continued to be held by the whole Movement that last year he was made a President of Toc H - an honour which he shared with other remarkable men.

As a Magistrate he was greatly respected and was Chairman of his Bench for a number of years. He was a Prison Visitor and did notable work for the reinstatement of prisoners. He served on the Police authority . . .

Those of us who were fortunate enough to enjoy his friendship rejoiced in his warmth, kindness and unfailing regard. He had a gift for friendship with men of all kinds, and his ready sympathy and strong Christian principles were totally uplifting. His outstanding gift for leadership was of a very high order, not imposed, but based on potent example, warm affection and a great readiness to appreciate and encourage.

'Skipper's' achievements were many and varied and always reflected great humanity. His versatility was such that he could address effectively a large gathering or conduct the most meaningful home-going prayers with a few, with the same depth and sincerity. As we give thanks for his life it can be truly said with assurance and confidence that he is now committed to his God to whom he is no stranger.

KD

Mrs Lilian Tebbott died in February. Originally she was a member of West Wickham (Kent) Branch but for the past 30 years, she worked with Sheringham (Norfolk) Women's Branch. Some two years ago, Lilian was forced by failing health to give up active work and became a Builder. She remained a generous contributor and 'was a source of great joy and encouragement to all who visited her'.

Canon Dudley E Benbow, Hythe (Kent) Branch Padre, died suddenly on 25 March. He met Tubby in 1923 when he was working in Eastcheap and that meeting changed his life. He was an active Toc H member from that time and he involved his family with him. (Many will know his sister Helen who became General Secretary to the Women's Association and later Rex Calkin's assistant.) He was ordained in 1929, served in several areas of the country, was a chaplain to the Forces in World War 2 and was appointed Hon Canon of Rochester Cathedral. In 1968, Canon Benbow retired to Hythe and at once started active service with Hythe Branch. He was an ardent supporter of local Toc H projects and had great joy in working with young volunteers in the care of disabled children. A thanksgiving service for his life and work was held at Saltwood Parish Church on 26 April. Hythe Branch Chairman writes to say that Canon Benbow will be sadly missed by many in Hythe and Saltwood.

We give thanks for their lives

THE DANCE GOES ON

by Sue Cumming

There are many times when you are tempted to give up — times when everything seems set against you, and the effort required to overcome the adversities would seem to be beyond you. At times like this it is salutary to hear the story of a person whose hold on life is no less than heroic — a person who has done more than words can tell for herself and for other people.

Such a story is the material of a new film, just to be released by EMI, called *The Dance Goes On*. Introduced and narrated by Rudolf Nureyev, it is a moving portrait of the life and work of Elizabeth Twistington-Higgins, MBE. Some people will already know something of this amazing story from her autobiography, 'Still Life', from her appearance on BBC TV's 'Light of Experience' series, or from seeing the two part article about her in 'Woman's Own' last autumn.

The basic story is of a young woman whose professional career as a ballet dancer was abruptly and tragically ended in 1953 when she was struck down by polio, and within 48 hours was paralysed from the neck downwards, and totally dependent on an iron lung. It is difficult even to imagine the courage and tenacity with which she slowly learned how to breathe again by flexing a small muscle in her neck every few seconds, or the patience and perseverance necessary to accept a way of life which even now

means a return to hospital each night to sleep in the iron lung.

Despite all this, with the help of family, friends, and the medical and technological facilities available today, Elizabeth has overcome all these handicaps to run her own Dance Troupe — the Chelmsford Dancers, now well-known to Toc H audiences — for whom she choreographs the dances, sets the music and designs the costumes, as well as training them. In addition she has become one of the world's leading painters by mouth, and reproductions of her work sell all over the world enabling her to have her own house and ambulance.

Quite a story in its own right, whether told by word of mouth, or in a book or a magazine. The film, however, achieves much more, for you don't truly take in the extent of this achievement unless you have seen and been touched by the beauty and life that comes from a person whose body is almost totally immobile.

Elizabeth's paintings of ballet are not 'pretty' pictures of dancers, as Rudolf Nureyev points out in the film. They are themselves expressions of 'The Dance', and could only have been painted by someone who knows what it is to dance, and who still has 'The Dance' going on inside. The paintings come to life in the film, and 'The Dance' is realised for all (even for those who think ballet is 'not

their cup of tea') for Elizabeth's choreography gives expression to the very fabric of life — joy and sorrow, strength and weakness, the individual and the corporate, hope and despair, comfort and fear, exultation and depression.

'The Dance' is part of her, and her life is there, from the young girl dancing through the streets of London at the beginning of the film to the settings of Stanford's 'Magnificat' and Vivaldi's 'Gloria' at the end. They are not just beautiful or enjoyable — they are deeply spiritual and speak of that which mere words cannot express.

Of particular interest to Toc H members, apart from the fact that Elizabeth is a Vice-President of Toc H, and the Chelmsford Dancers have been seen at two Cotswold Festivals and the 1975 and 1980 Festivals in London, is that there is also a brief appearance of Ken Prideaux-Brune and the 'Occasional Singers' towards the end of the film, since part was filmed at a performance of poetry, music and dance which they gave at All Souls, Langham Place, in 1979, called 'The Song and Dance of Worship'.

The film will shortly be on release — probably as a supporting film, so you will have to read the cinema adverts especially carefully — and I urge you to go to see what is not just a portrayal of a remarkable life story, but something which will enrich and inspire you. As HRH The Duke of Edinburgh says in his foreword to the book of the same name, also shortly to be published, 'If ever proof were needed that individuals are capable of making something of their lives in spite of the most adverse conditions, this story provides it.'



The pictures show Elizabeth with her assistant Sheila Large, and with Dame Ninette De Valois.

Photos: Sue Cumming

Personal View

by G S Lester

This article appeared originally in the British Medical Journal dated 16 February 1980 and is reproduced by kind permission of the BMJ and of the author. Mr G S Lester is a retired obstetrician and gynaecologist living in Solihull.

— Editor

The British Health Service is a vast organisation on which the Government spends more than anything else except defence. Hospitals are no longer institutions staffed only by dedicated people; they are huge complexes costing millions of pounds and run by many groups of staff. If teamwork is to be found in such circumstances then many human problems have to be answered. But there is another factor. There have come into the Health Service men and women who seek to exploit the differences and destroy the Service. If teamwork is destroyed, democracy is destroyed, as the only alternatives to teamwork are anarchy or some form of coercion and punishment.



On several occasions I invited a group of general practitioners, consultants, and trade unionists in the NHS to meet informally at my home. We spoke freely of our concern at the way ill will, mistrust, and class prejudice had disrupted the Service and of our belief that the trend could be reversed.

A NUPE branch secretary from one of the big hospitals in the Midlands said, 'I have never been in a doctor's home before, I have never met a group of doctors in this way and I had not realised that you ever thought of anyone but yourselves. This gives me hope.' 'I had no idea until today that we were part of such a hated group,' was the reaction of a surgeon in the same hospital. To which the trade unionist replied, 'There is more

than a division between us, there is real bitterness. My members give a massive vote to any issue that is against the consultants. Take the trivial issue of the white coats. The porters were given white coats. Then a notice went out from the hospital secretary stating that it had been brought to his attention that porters were not buttoning up their coats and it must stop. I went to the secretary on behalf of the porters and said that on the day the doctors button their coats, we would too. "Well," said the secretary, "the doctors are a law unto themselves." "From today," I said, "we are too." You see, we feel that you consultants think that you are in some way special.'

'But that is just the point,' said one of the consultants, 'I do think of myself as someone special. I have worked for it and feel I have earned respect. If I do not get it, I am as bitter as you; and we don't get it. The other day members of your union stopped our coffee for a meeting at the weekend even though it was in our own time because they said it was a meeting for our own interest and not for the patients. It was probably healthier for us to go without coffee but this is the sort of thing that drains our morale.'



An even clearer picture of the divisions of our society emerged as two of the men talked together. The first was an orthopaedic surgeon who wearily spoke of his frustrations. 'In all my years of training,' he began, 'I respected my chief. I opened the door when he came in. I fitted in with what he wanted because I respected him for his skills and experience. And as I worked I climbed the ladder of honour. I assumed, not that I was worthier than another, but that through my hard work, training, and diligence, others would look up to me and respect me. For years I have worked harder and longer than I needed under my contract. Pay has never been a factor. My responsibilities have put strains on me that few have had to carry. All the time I have done it willingly because I enjoy the work, because it is fulfilling, and because it has been a genuine contribution to the community. If the Government had paid me more I would not have had the energy to have done more. All I expected was the loyalty and respect of my staff. But suddenly it has gone. In short, my status has gone and with it my morale. I had no right to it, but it has been taken away, so has my desire to do the same amount of work.'

The man to whom he spoke is a lifelong trade unionist who has also worked long hours. In the beginning he not only did his routine job but took an extra job to earn more. 'I understand all you say,' he said, 'but you are not the only ones to suffer. I turned to the trade unions 32 years ago because of my sufferings and that of so many people in Britain. You say that work is losing its satisfaction. For millions of us it has never had and cannot have any satisfaction. We do a routine job which is only a means to an end — survival. You say that money does not matter. We say how lucky you are. You must earn a great deal of money to feel that it does not matter. We have never had enough to be able to say money does not matter. The hatred you now have of interference in all you do has been with us always. People told us first that we must clock in and out for we were not trusted. They locked things out of our way for the same reason and put supervision over us to check all we did. The bitterness you feel now may help you to understand the bitterness which many of us have felt for years — the exploitation and the lack of respect and trust for us as individuals.'

At this point the surgeon was silent. He then suggested that he brought his medical friends to meet the trade unionists. These two men had discovered that in sharing their feelings they had a great deal in common. They were both committed men: the one to medicine, to his patients, and to his own career; the other to his class, his union, and to justice. Yet both have had commitments which have brought the Health Service close to disaster because they were so limited that they left the other out.



Such encounters should be common but they are not. This particular surgeon had never talked like this with a trade union man in 26 years of practice. Such honesty might have increased hard feelings: on the contrary, it brought resolution. The NUPE man said, 'I see that we have to get away from this attitude of of "them and us".' While the surgeon from the same hospital said, 'I am grateful for frank speaking today. A mountain of ill will has grown up and we doctors have been unaware of its extent.' It was obvious that the feelings were due to wrong attitudes which had developed over a long period. Doctors must recognise that they are as responsible for these attitudes as anyone else.

The book referred to by Sue in her closing paragraph is being launched in conjunction with the film. It is: 'The dance goes on' (The life and art of Elizabeth Twistington-Higgins MBE) by Marc Alexander. With more than 100 black and white photographs and 24 pages of coloured pictures, the book is published at £6.50 by Leader Books, Park Works, Kingsley, Hampshire.

— Editor



Photos: Anne Bennison

Over one April weekend Stockport Town Hall was given over to a 'Volunteers Market'. Displays, manned by people

ready to answer any queries, were mounted by 37 local organisations. Already Toc H has made a number of

useful contacts as a result of this 'market'.



Women's Royal Voluntary Service

George Barnett and I represent Toc H at the annual meeting of 'Heads of Service Organisations'. This meeting is an attempt to bring together leaders of such service organisations as Rotary International, Lions, WRVS and many others to discuss matters of common concern. At the 1979 meeting, it was agreed that each organisation represented should prepare a

short statement of its aims and areas of work and pass copies of this to the editors of all the journals produced by the constituent bodies. I have passed on an article about Toc H to all the editors concerned and this will be published by them in due course. In return, we shall print articles from the other bodies as they reach us.

— Editor

In 1938, the Dowager Marchioness of Reading, at the request of the Home Secretary, formed an organisation to help Local Authorities recruit women for Air Raid Precautions Services: it was known as Women's Voluntary Service for ARP. As the work developed, the name was changed to WVS for Civil Defence. Our work involved distributing gifts from the American Red Cross, organising billeting, running nurseries, clothing evacuees and bombed families, running mobile canteens, emergency feeding and rest centres, and organising salvage schemes.

Our work continued and expanded after the war, and in 1966 Her Majesty The Queen honoured the WVS by adding 'Royal' to its title.

As a national organisation and a Crown Service, we have offices throughout the UK with a structure that allows a great variety of work for the elderly, disadvantaged, and others in need of support. We have a national Chairman (the Baroness Pike of Melton) and Chairmen of Scotland and Wales, 10

supported by offices at Area, County/Metropolitan District/City/District and Local levels. Our work is mainly:

- Distribution of clothing recommended by Local Authorities and other authorised bodies
- Welfare for the disabled
- Emergency Services, eg feeding the police, fire services, army etc in local or national emergency.
- Providing rest centres and general help in emergencies
- Playgroups
- Mother and baby clubs
- Arranging holidays for disadvantaged children
- Toy libraries
- Victim support schemes
- Family support schemes
- Organised feeding — 'Meals on Wheels' — luncheon clubs
- Good neighbour schemes
- Hospital work — shops, canteens, ward trolleys, libraries
- Home from Hospital schemes
- Help in Blood Transfusion Services
- Old People's Welfare — clubs, mobile

- libraries, escorts, trolleys in residential homes, etc
- Running Residential Clubs
- Prison Welfare and Aftercare
- Court Welfare
- Storage of Prisoners' Luggage
- Help with reception and resettlement of Vietnamese refugees

This, in addition to many small services that are carried out daily, adds up to a busy service given by many thousands of volunteers throughout the country. We work with other voluntary organisations in addition to the statutory authorities, but I have no doubt that a better understanding of the aims and work of other organisations represented at the Heads of Service would be most valuable. Our aim is to help where we can to provide practical aid and support for those in need.

Note: Any enquiries about WRVS should be sent to: Mrs E Beresford, Information Department, WRVS, 17 Old Park Lane, London W1Y 4AJ. (Tel: 01 499 6040).



The Mayor and Mayoress of Weymouth and Portland joining in the Toc H 'Knit

In' recently held in Weymouth's Co-op Hall. The event raised some £90.

In Brief...

● In March, the Editor had the great pleasure of presenting the new Crayford (Kent) Branch with their Lamp. So we had a particular interest in a letter from the Branch Secretary outlining some of their present work and future plans. Already they are running a Charity Shop, primarily to raise funds for a Crayford Community Centre. They are planning a monthly club night for the housebound, the elderly and the disabled. Two members are busy collecting volunteers to share in a programme of decorating the homes of neighbours unable to do it themselves. This all sounds like a good start and we hope to get progress reports.

● We have just heard from Western Approaches District member Leonard Goodall. Since the closing of Wembley Joint Branch seven years ago, Leonard and his wife Doris have carried on the tradition of the local Toc H Blind Social Club. In March, this club celebrated its 34th anniversary. The birthday cake — bearing the Toc H symbol in orange and white icing — was cut by the Secretary of the Middlesex Association for the Blind. There were a number of distinguished guests and greetings messages were read from Dr Rhodes Boyson MP and from the President of the Sydney (Australia) Toc H Branch. During the evening, 'Group 326' staged an excellent 'Old Tyme Music Hall'. Leonard tells us that he also keeps the rota for the Wembley Hospital library service which has continued twice weekly since its inception in 1936.

● Weymouth Men's Branch recently entertained 16 handicapped men to an afternoon of simple games with simple prizes and a 'singalong'. These men are gathered from a number of hospitals in the region for short stays in a holiday home. Besides the reward of bringing some happiness into the life of these severely handicapped people, Weymouth Branch are providing a real relief to the wonderful nurses who care for them so devotedly.



● We have recently had news of a newly formed group of Warwickshire District members which is very active. Some 20 members met together in February — some of them lapsed members now renewing their commitment — and decided to launch a programme of work. Already they are busy fund raising for a local cancer hospital and this month they are organising an Alexandra Rose Day appeal in Kenilworth. We were particularly pleased to note that this group is among the growing number (some 120 to date) of the groups and Branches now contributing regularly towards the cost of *Point Three* postage. Congratulations, Warwickshire! We shall watch your progress with great interest.

Beauty of Dale in Miniature

by John MacKirdy

The Rotherham Naturalists renewed a happy partnership with the Toc H Movement when they spent the weekend together at Colsterdale last June, (Annual Naturalists' Weekend). The programme invited them 'to sit on rocks, to muse o'er flood and fell' and this they did, in a secluded dale which has all the beauty of the more famous dales, but in miniature.

Cascading becks descend from the moors and upland fields, with lapwings and curlews, and finish in steep gorges whose wet, glistening rocks contain ferns and mosses of many kinds and of great beauty. The first impression was of simple, pure flowers like primroses, violets, wood sorrels, ladies' smocks, with the young leaves of birch and bracken.

Many birds flew past with food for their young. A dipper had her nest under a rock in one of the gorges and a ring ouzel let herself be photographed with her nestlings in a hole above a moorland track. Nearby a robin had built under a tuft of heather. A grass snake fled into the long grass.

In the world of insects, wood ants seethed over their mounds of debris and radiated out in long columns. Some were bringing food: like a worm, a caterpillar, or a luckless small ant of a different race, while others were bringing out rubbish from inside.

Instinctively they knew what to do; instinctively a specialised bumble bee was gathering food from the bilberry flowers.

The members saw the flies which can lay their eggs in the larvae and there were two white faced flies which depend on piercing their eggs directly into the bee's body. Norwegian wasps, which like high ground, were building their nests.

At this time of year, we must not forget the cuckoo which travels everywhere and his poor victim the meadow pipit, with its pretty lark-like song.

National Association of Prison Visitors

Note: This article is reprinted with permission from a leaflet produced by the National Association whose aim is to co-ordinate and foster the work of Prison Visitors. If you want more information, you should write to: The General Secretary, National Association of Prison Visitors, 47 Harlington Street, Bedford. -Editor

... Although some offenders have to be kept apart from society for a time, it is important that during this time they should not lose contact with the outside world. Visits and letters from relatives and friends help, as do television, newspapers and library facilities. Prison staff and visiting probation officers play their valuable part. The Prison Visitor has a unique contribution to offer, working alongside this team rather than as a member of it. Although appointed by the Home Office and subject to the regulations of the prison, he (or she) is a volunteer, not an 'official', and this independent status no doubt has an appeal to the prisoner who seeks his friendship.

Despite many improvements in the lot of the present day prisoner — more frequent opportunities for families to visit; more association and opportunities for leisure facilities — many men and women are still anxious to enjoy the special personal relationship offered by a Prison Visitor. They appreciate that this relationship has no ulterior motive, and that they will be regarded simply as people rather than criminals, and as individuals rather than inmates of an institution.

How Can You Help?

To be of value, visits must be made at frequent regular intervals. Most Visitors visit weekly or fortnightly, early in the evening when prisoners are not working, and at weekends. Visits take place in the prisoner's cell, unsupervised by prison staff, so that the prisoner and his Visitor may feel free to speak as they please. Indeed the quality most appreciated in a Visitor is often a sympathetic ear, particularly in the early stages of a relationship. As friendship and trust grow, conversation will range further afield, and a wide range of interests is an asset.

Previous experience of social work is not of the first importance, nor is social

Open Forum

The Abortion Debate

Your April editorial raises some points with which we cannot disagree but the moral decisions which lie behind requests for abortion are only one side of the story.

I am not in favour of abortion. Only strong medical advice that continuing pregnancy would be not just detrimental but dangerous to my health would ever have led me to consider it for myself. Now I'm too old for the question to arise for me. Recently, however, it arose for my daughter, newly graduated and unemployed, with a steady boy friend still at college. They were in no position to marry, even had they been certain that they wanted to. The alternatives were abortion, or a continuing pregnancy which would defer the chance of finding a job and leave the prospect of the baby being brought up by us — already elderly as grandparents, let alone as locum parents. After much heart-searching, we decided that abortion was the best answer for all concerned — even for the unborn child who would have started life at a disadvantage whether the course followed was single parenthood, marriage under pressure, or grandparent/parents. There will always be regrets, but we were also very thankful that such a decision is possible today.

Having helped in an unmarried mothers' home, and worked in gynaecology clinics, I have seen the distress which can arise from pregnancy outside marriage. Even now, the problems for the unmarried mother are enormous,

despite social security and a less censorious attitude. Marriage 'to make the baby legitimate' can work, provided that both parents are mature enough and sure enough of their feelings; but it is often a recipe for disaster.

Looking at abortion laws here is shutting the stable door too late. Surely we should be coming out firmly against the present promiscuous society — not an easy subject for legislation. Now that contraception is freely available, sex seems to be expected as a normal part of almost any relationship. For young people still to be virgin in their older 'teens is an increasing exception these days. How often do we speak out against the trend of sex with everything — books, magazines, films, television and theatre? Mary Whitehouse has a very strong point: contraceptives are freely available, but the freest and most reliable, even if the least used, is still the word 'No'.

There are, of course, married women whose doctors refer them on medical grounds and to whose abortions no objections should be raised. Their situation would not have been changed by Corrie, or even by the 1967 laws. Others fall into two main categories, viz pregnancies after families are felt to be complete and a pregnancy at any time in an unstable marriage. There are so many social implications to be considered and a good GP gives a family background in referring any patient to a specialist, so that the gynaecologist should be able to consider all these factors when giving advice.

background or level of education. What is needed is understanding, the desire to help others, and the ability to reassure those less fortunate that they are not forgotten or rejected.

Age

You have to be at least 21 and not over 70 to take up the work. Visitors are normally expected to retire at 75.

Where Would You Visit?

Most prisons were built in the last century, and look forbidding on the outside; inside, a great deal has been done to refurbish them and make life tolerable. There are several new establishments in bright spacious surroundings, and about one prisoner in ten is in an open prison where the daily routine is more relaxed. Which sort of prison you visit depends largely on where you live; to make visiting easier you would normally visit the prison nearest your home.

Whom Would You Visit?

A prison is a community within a community and its inhabitants are as varied as those you meet outside. A few have deliberately chosen a career of crime; some have drifted into criminal ways; many are experiencing prison for the first time. Some are educationally limited and inarticulate. They may well come from unstable homes and have special difficulty in coping with everyday life and planning ahead. In some establishments there are also people on remand awaiting trial. But no matter what their background or the reason for their imprisonment, prisoners can and do benefit from contact with a Visitor who brings a welcome breath of fresh air.

How Do You Apply?

If you think you could help in this worthwhile work why not contact the Governor at your nearest prison?

Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

We talk in Toc H about the quality of life. Often it is this intangible that consultants must weigh up, and on it base advice and a decision. Time is short. How best can a woman be helped? Sometimes abortion really seems to be the best answer: at other times she needs to be offered help through a crisis to which there can be a happy ending in keeping the baby whose death had been requested. I've seen it work both ways and I think we should continue to allow a choice.

Nobody is forced to terminate a pregnancy: it is asked for, but I think it should never be available 'on demand'. Doctors should have the right to consider each case on the facts as fully as they know them. Help and counselling should be available, to give the quality of life in the best way possible in all cases.

Name and address supplied

... I found the editorial on this subject (April's *Point Three*) interesting and I do see points on both sides. I wouldn't dictate to anyone else but, speaking personally, I would never agree to an abortion for myself. I am a believer in the Ten Commandments, including 'Thou shalt not kill', and to agree to an abortion in my own case would leave me feeling like a murderer.

Beryl Smith
Crayford, Kent

Mobilisation for Survival

The Very Revd George MacLeod's article (February *Point Three*) should be read and read and read again until its full significance strikes home: it is obvious that the implications have not even pierced the skin of the average reader. The most important words in the article are 'To move beyond the rhetoric of disarmament', 'non-violence is the very core of the Christian faith' and 'the doctrine of the just war'.

So called Christians have given lip service (rhetoric) to the Christian faith ever since the martyrdom of the early Christians ceased. We say all manner of things in our set prayers which we have no intention of putting into practice in the slightest degree. I think that one of the main aims of Tubby in opening the Old House and founding the Movement was to try to minimise 'lip service' both in the Church and laity.

Of course, non-violence is the very core of Christianity: it is expressly commanded in the Sermon on the Mount.

It was lip service to the faith

which caused the 'doctrine of the just war' to be formulated. The leaders of the Church had to keep in with those who were responsible for their appointment and the majority of public opinion in order to keep their places in the Church.

It is very difficult to imagine the idea of accepting whatever comes without resistance, but this is demanded and demonstrated by Jesus. Imagine no opposition to Hitler and the result; imagine no opposition to Cambodia; imagine no opposition to the USSR; yet these are demanded. It is to the shame of Christians everywhere that non-violence, as preached by the Sermon on the Mount had to be demonstrated, with faith in the ultimate result, in modern times by a Hindu, Mahatma Gandhi. And he won a victory over the whole might of the British Raj.

Crucifixion is death by pain — long hours of excruciating pain until the body can take no more. Jesus chose such a death rather than surrender his non-violent principles. And not only physical pain but mental pain. He was deserted by everyone and reviled by the very crowd who had welcomed him into Jerusalem with hosannas. We could be called to nothing so terrible as his suffering. And we have pain killers.

This to me is what Christianity is all about. But we are so weakened, so comfortable in our homes that we can't even contemplate such a fate. Some of us even deny our faith in the face of ridicule.

And what is death after all? We sing 'Death has no more dominion over us'. Is this rhetoric too?

B D Brown
Charmouth, Dorset

Food for Thought!

Is it not time that Toc H which provides 'refreshment' on various occasions gave some consideration to the *quality* of the food provided? There is an ever increasing body of opinion that most of the mass produced food sold in chain stores and other shops lacks many of the ingredients of sound nourishment: white bread instead of good wholemeal, white sugar from which all the molasses has been extracted to sell profitably as a by-product, chicken which has been reared unnaturally as 'broiler', eggs which have been produced in devitalizing batteries, and above all sweets which are made from refined sugar, which any dentist will tell you ruin children's teeth. (Surely dried fruit and nuts would be an acceptable substitute?) One might also

mention pork and veal which have been produced under most unhealthy and unnatural conditions in factory farms.

Strong tea and coffee both contain harmful drugs and are considered by many to be harmful: there are many excellent and healthy substitutes.

John Gwynne
Cirencester

Full Marx

I agree wholeheartedly with F H Marsh of Croydon (April 'Open Forum') that we should keep out of politics which split and destroy. Let us concentrate on Toc H's Christian ideals. We pledge 'to build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man' — not to widen the gap. We all love little Fred Bailey for his quiet kindly ways, but I do not know of one member of the two happy Bideford Branches who share his political views: it made us sad to see his 'Full Marx' letter in February's 'Open Forum'.

In contrast what an inspiring letter came from the late Ken Western. There was a present day 'elder brother' to deepen our resolve when we who love the original Ceremony of Light say 'We will remember them' and 'Let your light so shine'. I will paste Ken's letter on to stiff card so that it will speak to us for many a year. May we all find the peace of God which overcomes the pain and evil which the world inflicts.

Beryl Hammond
Central Councillor, N Devon

Help!

This summer, about mid-July, we are hoping to have a great Bring and Buy Sale at Talbot House, Poperinge. The raised money shall be used for social work in and around Poperinge (especially for the elderly people).

Now I would ask the help of the many English visitors to the Old House. Probably some of these Toc H members can bring something for our sale to Poperinge. For instance: marmalade, English books, jewellery, home made things etc. (By the way I think it's useless to bring clothes as the past has proved that we can't sell them easily.)

So it would be a great help to Tubby's Poperinge Group, if some visitors who do come to the Old House before mid-July, could bring something with them. We will be very grateful.

Luc Inion
Westoleteren, Belgium

A Fantasy in Mime for the Deaf

by Huw Gibbs

Branches in Clwyd, North Wales, recently staged a series of shows for the profoundly deaf and hard of hearing. The idea came to me while I was attending a drama demonstration at Bangor Normal College. One of the tutors was a professional mime artist and I was impressed with the manner in which he could transmit ideas and moods without words. I promptly contacted the director of Clwyd Youth Theatre and officers of the Deaf Society in Clwyd and suggested

a three way operation in which Toc H members in the county would arrange venues and local advertising amongst the hard of hearing.

Three shows were performed in Rhyl, Mold and Wrexham to a total audience of around 100 people. Now the Clwyd Youth Theatre is considering producing another show for the deaf and plans may be prepared for other types of drama for different handicaps — for example a

colourful nonsense project designed for mentally handicapped children or maybe a sound show for the blind!

Ten young people from the Youth Theatre, together with a professional director from Theatre Clwyd Outreach, rehearsed for several months to produce the show. Props, staging and lighting were provided free of charge through the professional theatre.

Full press and radio coverage were given to this unusual show and BBC Wales television made an arrangement to televise it for Welsh Language TV. Unfortunately, they were forced to cancel at short notice, but the programme director has agreed to film a later performance when Toc H combines with members of the Youth Theatre.

For your diary

The Challenge of the '80s

The developments in technology we keep hearing about give us the opportunity to build a society in which people care for each other. This presents a challenge to all Toc H members. Two weekend workshops will be held at Cuddesdon House to look at some of the issues.

10-12 October 1980 — to look at some of the human problems in industrial relations, education, and in voluntary work. These are issues on which we all have views to share with others.

28-30 November 1980 — to take a closer look at the economic questions which crop up when we discuss social and political changes. This is not a short course in economics, nor a set of economics lectures. It is an opportunity to discuss, with expert guidance, possible answers to the questions which affect us all.

Each weekend (Friday evening to midday Sunday) will cost £14.70.

To book a place, write now (enclosing a £5 non-returnable deposit) to: Tom Gulliver, 106 Nore Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 8EN. Tel: 0272 (Bristol) 842092.

Alison House

There are still a few vacancies on the Alison House holiday weeks for the periods 2-9 October and 9-16 October 1980. These have been advertised as 'Foreign Holiday Re-union weeks' but others are welcome too. Anyone interested in joining either or both of these holiday weeks should write to: Elsa Perrin, 39 Elmar Road, Tottenham, London N15 5DH.

Cotswold Quiet Day

Another Quiet Day will be held at Kemble House, Kemble, Glos on Sunday 6 July 1980. Starting at midday, the day will be led by the Revd Edgar Wallace, and will close at 5 pm approximately with an act of worship in the adjacent parish church. Tea and coffee will be provided, but participants are asked to bring their own picnic lunches and teas.

The cost of the day will be £1 per head, payable in advance when reserving a place, to John Mitchell, Kyrle House, Edde Cross Street, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

World Chain of Light 1980

This year the World Chain of Light will start from New Zealand. The exact spot is not yet certain but it is hoped that it will be Nelson (in the extreme north of New Zealand's South Island) since this is Nelson Branch's 50th anniversary year. In the UK, the date for starting the vigil will be Friday, 12 December.



Photos: Helen Tomlinson

The students at the Occupational Therapy College in Derby organised a Craft and Toy Fair last November, to raise money for Toc H, and the result was the magnificent sum of £132.92. Helen Tomlinson, a second year student there, who had been on two projects in the SE Region put the suggestion to the students — the money is for the Notts and Derby Area project this summer, taking some mentally handicapped adults to Port Penrhyn for a week — and they accepted it unanimously and gave their time and skills to help raise the £1,000 or so needed. Many thanks to Helen and her friends for their enthusiasm and hard work.

Who's Who

Well done, Arthur!

In March, Arthur Frymann retired from the active list of magistrates on the Nottingham City Bench after 20 years service. During this period, Arthur served on the juvenile court panel (becoming its deputy chairman), on the probation case committee and on the county magistrates court committee. On his retirement, the Clerk to the Justices said: *'In court he has for long been recognised as a firm and just chairman, and his place will be extremely hard to fill.'*

Arthur — a retired textile manufacturer — has been a member of Toc H since 1934. He has served as Branch Chairman and Notts and Derby Area Chairman; he was Chairman of our Diamond Jubilee Appeal Fund Committee; he served busy stints on the Movement's Central Executive Committee and its Finance Committee; he continues to give sterling service as a member of the Mid-Eastern REC and of the Alison House Committee.

Arthur's two great loves — Toc H and the Samaritans — continue to benefit enormously from his calm wisdom and long experience. It's a great pleasure to pen this short tribute to a Toc H elder statesman who remains so active and young in heart and mind.

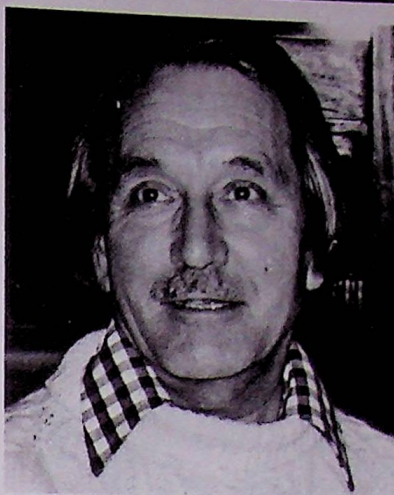


Photo: Bob Broeder

Welcome, Sue!

Those of you who ring us up will have heard a new voice recently. It belongs to Susan Riche who took over receptionist duties at Wendover in March 1980. Sue is a local girl who is making her first contact with Toc H. She's settling in well, though she still looks at us all with a wary eye!

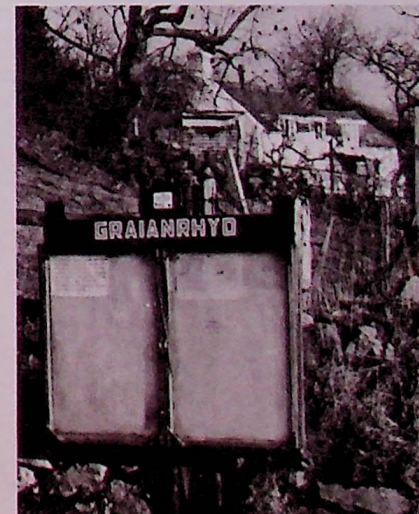


Photo: Scott Shaw



Congratulations, Norman!

Norman Wardleworth of Sale (Cheshire) Joint Branch has written to tell us some of his Toc H memories, which go back to 1923. In that year, he was on a cycling tour and, quite by chance, met the warden of the Young Seafarers' Club in Southampton. The kindness of that encounter changed Norman's life. As soon as he got back to Manchester, he looked up the address he'd been given of the old Bleak House Branch and taking a friend with him (Ritchie de Louis) started to share in the Branch's work. They attended meetings regularly there for four years, finally becoming full Toc H members on 1 September 1927. Four years later, Norman married, moved to Sale and joined the Branch there. (He is one of 111 members joining Sale Branch since 1931). In 1977, Gordon and Beatrice Rutter organised a party of Norman's old friends at Mark 4 to celebrate his completion of 50 years in the Movement. They were delighted recently to mount an even more splendid party in the house on the occasion of Norman's 80th birthday.



Photos: Percy Freeman

Thank You!



The pictures show some of the notice boards made and placed by

Llanarmon-yn-Ial (Clwyd) Men's Branch. The boards—strategically sited in the village—were presented to the whole community in appreciation of the support given to Toc H projects.

Someone, somewhere, is waiting for you to give them a POINT THREE subscription

Have you a friend who might be interested in Toc H?

Here's an attractive way of giving them Point Three, with this gift card.

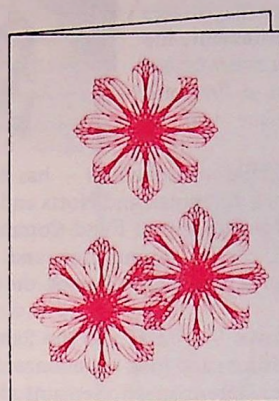
Simply fill in the form below and enclose £1.20 for a year's subscription. We will send Point Three to your friend every month and will send *you* the gift card for you to give to your friend.

Wording in the card:

Greetings
to
Here is a gift subscription to the Toc H
magazine 'Point Three'.

With best wishes
from

Simply sit back and wait for your first
copy to arrive!



The gift voucher makes a useful birthday present, a good prize for a Toc H competition, or a thoughtful gift for a friend who cannot afford a subscription.

To: The Editor
Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT

PLEASE SEND ME one/ **Point Three** gift voucher(s).

I enclose a cheque/PO for £1.20 or (made payable to Toc H).

My name

My address

PLEASE ADD MY FRIEND TO THE **POINT THREE** MAILING LIST

Friend's name

Friend's address



Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury. Telephone: 0296 623911.

North Buckinghamshire. For properties in the area between £10,000 and £30,000, please contact Bonner & Son, Chartered Surveyors, 12 Market Square, Buckingham. Telephone 028 02 2301.

Weymouth - Bed, breakfast and evening meal. Weekend breaks £12.00, weeks from £35. Open all year. Bar, free parking, reductions for children. Small coach parties also welcome. Mrs Cole, Kirtleton House, 21 Kirtleton Avenue, Weymouth. Telephone: (0305) 785296.



Quiet situation. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, Hotel Jacobs, Baliestraat 1, Bruges. 8000. Telephone: 010-32-50 3398 31/32.

Keen collector requires pre-1930 Postcards. Will make generous offers. Contact: Mrs Cook, 42 Forest Way, Highcliffe, Christchurch, Dorset. Telephone: (04252) 4941.

Accommodation and Small Group conference 20 minutes Central London. Single, double, four, five bedded rooms. Bed, breakfast, dinner £6.67. Study, library, chapel, television etc. YMCA, Stockwell Road, London SW9 9ES. Tel: 01 274 7861/3.

Bruges, Belgium. Hotel Jacobs, (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel.

Conwy, dinner and B & B. Weekends, mid-week bookings, ideal for walking, touring, near sea and mountains. Terms £48 per week. Doreen and Bill Baxter, Llys Gwilym Guest House, 3 Mountain Road, Cadnant Park, Conwy, N Wales. Tel: 049 263 2351.

Lee on Solent, Hampshire. House, 3 bedrooms, 2 reception, mins sea. Tel: 0329 232175.

Christian Penfriends Nationwide. Singles holidays. Weekend Houseparties. Local groups. Sincere males specially welcomed. Details: C. I. Fellowship, Dept/B23, Edenthorpe, Doncaster. (SA1)

Needed in Barking, Essex. Caring person to look after a lady suffering from arthritis, who requires washing, dressing and undressing and toilet needs attended to. Accommodation available. Please telephone Hornchurch 45143.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HL.